

THE
FATE OF BEAUTY,
OR, THE
FALL OF VANITY;

BEING THE HISTORY OF THE
UNFORTUNATE LANCASHIRE LASS,
ANNA BROWN,
OF PRESCOT, in the said County.

Shewing how her own Folly in too much trusting to
what was said of her Charms, was the cause of her
ruin, as well as the death of her Father and Mother :
a Caution to all young Women to beware of Flat-
tery : This is an Authentic Story, and well known
at this Time in LANCASHIRE.

(Written by a Young Lady of the same Town)

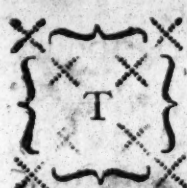
TO WHICH IS ADDED,
An ADVENTURE of an Agreeable TURN,
WHICH HAPPENED TO ONE OF THE
RICHEST MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER,
At AMSTERDAM, in HOLLAND.

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T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
Miss ANNA MARIA BROWN.


 HOUGH all young women are fond
 of admiration and most men are
 desirous of obtaining a fine girl,
 yet oftentimes the effect of love
 and vanity bring ruin and de-
 struction.

Anna Maria Brown was the daughter of an
 eminent farmer in the county of LANCASTER;
 she possessed by nature all the beauty that could
 possibly center in one person, and though she
 was born in the country, had all the delicacy
 of a LONDON lady, only she had the advantage
 over them of having a rosy blush on her cheeks,
 which gave a lustre to her features; she was of
 the middle size, and her shape was equally
 beautiful as her face. Such a one the reader
 must think, could not be without a number of
 admirers, and she had some of all ranks; but
 hearing herself so continually praised for her
 beauty, could not bear the thoughts of marry-

ing one of an equal or inferior degree, and the young Squire who was Lord of the Manor, and all his fox-hunting companions, though they flattered and courted, only thought of indulging their inclinations.

Her parents began to be very uneasy, fearing she should be seduced by some of them, and would fain have married her to a young shop-keeper in good business, but she seemed to dislike him.

But however, though Miss Anna Maria's vanity would not let her listen to a common offer, she could not help her heart feeling a particular regard for a farmer's son, a neighbour, his name was William, a handsome genteel young fellow and one who sincerely loved her, he always followed her to church, and took every opportunity to speak to her, but there was two reasons for her not indulging her passion for him.

The first was her pride, for she flattered herself that in time the young squire might marry her, and then she should be a lady.

The other was, her lover's father and her own were enemies to each other, and had a law suit between them some years before, about a field that each of them wanted to take into his ground. So that whenever the lovers met, it was by stealth, in a green lane behind her father's farm, which they did every evening, as they thought, without being observed.

Anna had nothing cruel in her disposition, so she could not deny him the favour of seeing
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and conversing with her, though she did not intend to make him her husband, but as often as he swore he could not live without her, she as often persuaded him to think of her no more. But though Anna could not prevail on the poor lad to leave off her company; an affair happened that obliged him to it.

The young man that was mentioned before who was a shopkeeper, finding Anna was averse to him, took it in his head that she liked somebody else, this set him upon the watch, and seeing her go out, followed her at a distance, he saw her turn down the green lane, where she met poor constant William at the entrance of it, who had been waiting for her some time.

The jealous rival no sooner saw them meet, but, being stung with rage he flew to her father, and after thanking him for his kindness in giving him leave to pay his addresses to his daughter, told him he now knew the reason of her dislike to him, for that she was in love with young farmer William, and they were now both together, and mentioned the place; the old man, in a violent rage, swore he would soon put an end to their courtship, for if she would not marry who he liked, she should not marry at all. So saying he went out at the back door and walked over the fields to be there the sooner.

Anna had never been so gay before, and William quite delighted with her, had ventured to do what he never durst attempt, which was stealing a sweet kiss from the rosy lips of his dear

dear Anna. She was not displeased at it, but thought she must put on a little coyness, so ran away from him, he was afraid to follow her, so stood like a statue, she sat down on a stile, with her back towards him, but instantly saw her father within a few yards of her; she got up hastily and made signs for William to be gone, which he did, as he heard her father's voice raised very high in anger to her, asking her where that fellow was; Anna trembled very much, but asked him who he meant?—“Why, said he in a passion, whom should I mean but that villain William; I am not ignorant of your meeting him, but if ever I know you see or speak to him again, you shall turn out of doors.

Anna now felt that she loved William better than she imagined and her heart throb'd with anxiety about him, but her father obliged her to go home with him, and kept her some time confined, having such a strict eye over her that she had no opportunity of giving William the least consolation.

Things went on in this manner about a month and the love that Anna had conceived for William began to wear off, when one morning as she and her father sat at breakfast, a neighbour came running into the house in a great fright, and cried out, Oh! farmer Williams, has hanged himself in the lane behind your grounds, he is just cut down from the tree and his quite dead; his own father found it out when it was too late. By a letter which he

he had left in his chamber, wherein he threatens to destroy himself for love of your daughter. He had hardly done speaking, before Anna, who had sat looking at him with the utmost astonishment, fainted away and fell on the floor. The old farmer stood over her with tears in his eyes, wringing his hands, and blaming himself for what he had done to occasion this rash action.

After some time and proper applications, she came to herself, but shed a flood of tears, telling her father in the agony of her grief, that he alone had been the cause of the poor youth's destruction by keeping her from his sight. The old man said all he could to comfort and console her, promising never to debar her inclinations again.

At this unlucky time Anna's mother was out of the way having been gone about a fortnight to her brother's thirty miles off, so he sent a man and horse to fetch her, she came home the next day; and in the tenderest manner embracing her daughter, begged her to compose herself, since the fatal event could not be recalled; and she proposed to send Anna to her uncle's for a little while till she had got over it, her father consented, and she was glad of the opportunity of being out of the way of hearing the affair so often mentioned, for it was the talk of the whole town; every one pitying poor William that he should end his days in the prime of his life, being just turned of nineteen.

Accordingly

Accordingly Anna set out for her uncles, when she was gone the farmer shewed his wife a letter he had received from William's father which was full of bitter reflections on him, accusing him as being not only the death of his son, but of his own too, which must shortly follow, after losing his only child, the prop of his age and all the comfort he ever expected in this life with him.

In this melancholy letter he inclosed that which his son had wrote to Anna. The contents of which ran thus.

" My dearest Anna,

THE only real felicity I ever experienced, was, in those happy moments I passed in your company, when I could with the sincerest and most ardent love, walk by your side, hear you speak, and sometimes press your lovely hand, but, since I am for ever deprived of that happiness, what is left for wretched me? farewell to every thing—farewel to life; I am determined in my fixed resolution to cut the thread of that, which, if prolonged, can only bring me to endless despair; Adieu, my dearest, my beloved Anna, for never more will you behold

Your wretched, distracted

WILLIAM.

P.S. My presumption in saluting you the last time I saw you, I hope you will pardon, and as it has dwelt upon my memory ever since, so it shall be my last thought when I cast off my existence."

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This letter shocked the farmer and his wife very much, but they agreed not to let Anna see it for some time at least.

The young squire had heard the story, and came to visit the farmer, but did not express any great concern, as nothing could touch his heart, or hinder his pleasures—he begged of the farmer to let his daughter come home again as soon as possible, and he would endeavour to divert her, “For, say he, if she stays much longer, she will loose another of her admirers, as I am determined (continued he laughing) to shoot myself.

The farmer and his wife were afraid of offending him, so promised to fetch her in a few days. Accordingly her father set out the next day and returned the day following with her.

The Squire was chatting with her mother, waiting for her coming; as soon as Anna alighted from her horse he ran and caught her in his arms, saluted her, and led her into the house, then placed her in a chair, and himself close by her, and observing she appeared very dejected, he begged her to resume her natural cheartfulness, and promised he would do all in his power to please her, and indeed he was as good as his word, for he seldom let a day pass without seeing her, and making some genteel present, this had the desired effect on Anna, it was the surest way to get to her heart, to pay adoration to her beauty, and present her with those trinkets.

She now began to be as lively as ever, and the baits which the Squire had thrown to entangle her, succeeded to his wish, she grew so
B fond

fond of him that she was never easy but when he was there, and her parents, far from being uneasy gave themselves no concern what the event might be, being fully persuaded his designs were honourable. Thus far every thing went on to his wish and desire, he danced and sung, kissed and toy'd with her without any interruption.

However the old man had an hint given to him soon after by a person unknown, who sent a note to him in these words.

“ Farmer Brown,

“ I have known you some years, and have a
 “ regard for your family and honour, which I
 “ am afraid is in danger of receiving a shock
 “ from a great man, I need not mention his
 “ name, his frequent visits at your house may
 “ enable you to guess, I would advise you to
 “ take care of your daughter, and take the ad-
 “ vice of a friend to serve you.

J. L.

This letter made the old farmer and his wife for some moments at a stand, but as they had crossed their daughter, the result of their determination was, to trust to her prudence, not caring to give her fresh subject for uneasiness, but shewed her the letter, and desired her to be upon her guard against the 'Squire's flattery. Anna shewed herself a little vexed at such a surmise and at the same time told them she could put an entire trust and confidence in the 'Squire, as she was sure he intended to marry her soon. This put an end to their fears, and the gay lover was received as usual. The

The 'Squire, however, saw some difference he thought in the father and mother, who seemed to want him to explain himself, and come to the point, they aimed at, but he artfully beat off their attacks, and pretended the greatest friendship for them and the tenderest love for Anna, they were at a loss what to think.

One day Mr. and Mrs. Brown were invited to go to a wake or fair, which was held five or six miles from the town, they went with some neighbours who asked their company, and, as it was a place for hiring servants, they wanted two lusty maids for their business, they left the charge of every thing at home to Anna.

When they were gone, the 'Squire came to see her, as he did every day, and finding she was alone, for the other two maids were discharged that day, thought now was the time to begin his purpose which he had waited for with the utmost impatience, and had even laid a plan in his mind of carrying her off soon, but this was luckier for him than he could have hoped, so he lost no time, but making use of all his art and eloquence, kissed, embraced, protested, and swore to marry her in less than a month when he had settled his affairs, he told her it was all the same to make him happy now, for he should from that moment think her his lawful wife, and never would think of any other.

The credulous Anna was quite born down by what he said, and having nobody near to check her rising inclinations, suffered herself to be ruined, and undone by her own consent; he stayed
some

some hours with her, but not having the confidence to look her injured parents in the face; at the same time he expected them home, he left her full of love and gratitude for the favours she had granted him, promising eternal truth.

When he was gone, Anna set herself down to reflect what she had done, but was not under the least apprehension of his falsehood, so tried to compose herself, lest her father and mother should observe her confusion.

They came home soon after and brought the two servants with them from the wake, they enquired of their daughter if any body had been there? she said, none but the 'Squire, and that he was kind enough to stay and drink tea with her; the old folks said, they were much obliged to him for keeping her company, so all past off without any suspicion.

The next day he came again, and every day for the first week, still shewing the same roundness for Anna, and she still indulged him every opportunity, in unlawful love; the week after he came every other day, and the third came but twice in the whole week; Mr. and Mrs Brown were surprized at it, but Anna much more, because she expected the following week he would fulfil his promise and marry her; she had observed indeed, the two last times he had appeared much colder, and with more indifference than he was wont; but still her good opinion of herself, and all her powerful charms would not suffer her to believe him false; however, the fourth week when Anna expected he would come and make
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all up, he appeared not at all: Her father and mother could not imagine the reason, and asked Anna if she had given the 'Squire any affront to make him quit the house.

No, said she with a blush, and at the same time a tear dropt from her eye, I have behaved with too much kindness to him.

Her parents did not understand the meaning of what she said, but saw plain enough she loved him too much for her peace, which gave them much trouble; however, they endeavoured to persuade her he was taken up with some particular business, and she flattered herself it might be so.

A fortnight more elapsed, and no visit from the Squire, but a rumour was spread about the town, that he was going to be married to a young lady in Derbyshire.

This account drove Anna almost to distraction, if she had heard such news before, he had not triumphed over her honour, her pride would have made her hate him, but now she looked upon him as her husband, as nothing was wanting but the ceremony to make him so; she could not bear the thought, that another should rob her of her just right.

Her father and mother were greatly vexed at the report, as they did not in the least doubt of having him for a son-in-law very soon, but the chief of their concern was about their daughter, who had been of sadly disappointed in her hopes of grandeur; then they called to mind the untimely end of poor William, and wished they had consented

sented to her having him, and began to fear for a judgment upon them, their daughter would never be settled happily.

But Anna being stung with love and rage, was determined not to give up so easily, accordingly she wrote a letter to him in this manner :

SIR,

I AM surprised that I have not had the pleasure of seeing you for these six weeks, and much more, at a report I have heard, of your engagement with another lady, tho' I must confess I cannot suspect your honour, so much to believe you capable of so much deceit, give me leave to insist on the favour of seeing you soon to clear all doubts, and in so doing you will much oblige your humble servant,

ANNA BROWN.

This letter she sent away immediately, unknown to her parents, and dressing herself out to the best advantage, waited impatiently for the evening, being fully persuaded he would come, tea-time came but no 'Squire, but when it began to be almost dark, she was in the greatest anxiety, and going to the gate to look out for him, saw one of his servants, who pulling off his hat gave her a letter and went away, Anna hurried up to her chamber to read it, and to her amazement and grief, read these lines :

Fond foolish Girl,

TO imagine a gentleman of my birth and fortune, would stoop to marry one so low as you, to be sure I did admire your beauty, and you was kind enough to let me taste it, you are
not

not the only pretty girl by a score, that I have gained with their own folly, and my promises, but I would advise you to forget me now, as I do you, we have loved long enough, besides, I have fresh game in view, so tell you plainly, this is the last will ever pass between us, adieu.

It is much easier to think than describe, what passed in the heart of Anna, on reading this cruel letter, if her resentment at such usage had not filled her mind, she would certainly have fainted, and giving way to her tears, which ran down her cheeks in streams, in some measure allayed her grief, yet she had not power to rise from her seat for a long time, till being roused by her fears of her parents discovering the affair, she wiped away her tears, and with tottering steps went down stairs.

He father and mother looking very hard at her, asked her, why she stayed so long by herself, and if she had not been crying, she answered them faintly she was not very well, nor could they prevail on her to eat or drink; the old folks was very much disturbed at seeing her so ill, and her mother said, I hope Anna, you do not make yourself unhappy about the 'Squire, you find he has quite forsaken you, then why do you think so much of him, he is not worth your pains, and you may meet with as good a match yet, as you are a handsome honest, virtuous girl, and your father can give you a few hundreds.

To this discourse Anna never answered a word, but bursting into tears, took a candle and went

to bed, but she never closing her eyes all night, thinking and pondering what she should do, sometimes she thought of telling her father and mother, but that she thought would break their hearts, at last she concluded to write another letter to the 'Squire, and perhaps he might relent, so getting up as soon as it was light, she wrote as follows :

Ingrateful Man,

WHEN first you pretended love to me, I thought you so sincere, that I could not but give way to my inclinations in your favour, little thinking of your base designs, and when I consented to my own destruction, even then I thought your solemn vows, my bond security, but now I find I have been deceived, and become for ever miserable, think, sir, oh ! think how my innocence has been betrayed by you, be generous I beseech you, return and make me happy, was you to know the grief you have given my heart, you surely would pity the unfortunate,

ANNA BROWN.

This letter she conveyed to him by a trusty servant, but it was all in vain, she neither saw nor heard from him more, but next morning was informed to her total despair, that he was just set out post for Derby.

Now all poor Anna's hopes were entirely over, she did nothing but pine and languish continually, but the worst of her fate was to come, she found herself with child by her base betrayer.

In

In this terrible situation, she like many others, when drove to desperation, when they have done one fault to hide it they are guilty of another.

So Anna finding herself utterly undone, took the rash resolution to leave her father's house, and go to London, accordingly next morning as soon as it was light, being summer time, she set out at three o'clock, taking a large bundle with her, of her clothes, money, and other necessaries. The town where she lived was called Prescot, and it was about eight miles to Liverpool, she got there before six o'clock, and the stage coach was just going to set out for London.

Anna took a place in the name of Mrs. Green, and told the gentlewoman at the Inn, that she was lately married, that her husband was gone a voyage to the coast of Guiney, that he came from London, and desired her to go up there, to be with his friends, till his return.

Anna thought it necessary to tell this plausible story to evade any search that might be made after her, by her father and mother.

The reader must think she did not leave the place of her nativity, without feeling the severest pangs, the thoughts of quitting her parents, perhaps for ever, threw her almost into convulsions, however, collecting all her strength and reason, she drank a glass of wine, and eat a biskit, and then set off with the rest of the passengers—it was a delightful morning, and the prospect all round was pleasant, her fellow travellers were merry, she past this day better than could
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be imagined, when they put up at their inn at night, Anna shewed all the chearfulness she could, that the company might not be inquisitive about her, if she appeared dejected.

Early the next morning, they got up to pursue their journey, but Anna happened to go into the inn yard, before the coach was quite ready, saw a man getting on horse back, that she thought she recollected to have seen somewhere, the man looked at her some time, Anna went into the parlour, when one of the waiters came and told her, there was a young man that looked like a gentleman's servant wanted to speak to her, she desired him to come in, which he did, and bowed to her, asked her if she did not remember his bringing a letter to her, from 'Squire F——, she told him she did, now she looked at him again.—I was said he, always sorry for you Miss Brown, and thought my master used you in a base manner, for he told me all his affairs of that sort, and brought me from London, the last time he was there, on purpose to intrigue for him, I never liked it, but now he is gone to answer for all his wickedness, Anna was amazed at what he said, and desired him to explain himself.

But the coachman coming to tell Anna, he was waiting for her, she was sadly vexed, not to hear what the man had to say.

However, she told the coachman, if he would wait half an hour for her, she would give him a shilling, upon which he pocketed the money, and promised he would.

For

For the thoughts of getting the shilling was more to him than the care of his horses, and he was determined to lash them on well, that he might get in time.

So having this time allowed them, 'Squire F——'s servant began to relate the particulars.

You know Miss, that there was a report, that my master was going to be married, to a young lady of great fortune, in Derbyshire, but he never had such an intention, for I have heard him say, he never would marry till he was old, and quite worn out, and then he would have some antiquated virgin, with a confounded bag of money, and such a one he said would sooner have an old rake, than no husband at all, and would rather nurse his crazy carcase than lead apes in hell.

But with regard to this young lady I was speaking off, my master saw her at a ball one night, she was a very graceful figure, he took her out to dance a minuet, and chose her for a partner in the country dances, which lasted best part of the night, he took a polite leave of her, and her brother who accompanied her, and they in return, with the same civility and good manners invited him to spend some time in Derby soon, if it was agreeable to him, as nothing could be more so to his wish, he promised he would. Every body's eyes in the room were upon them, and it was immediately given out it would be a match.

And indeed the brother and sister thought that he intended to pay his addresses when he engaged to visit them.

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The brother thought she could not expect a better offer, and the sister was determined she would not deny him, so much was she struck with him. I need not mention his person to you, for I believe you will confess he was as handsome as he was wild.

However, according to his promise, in a short time after, my master set out post for Derby, as you have heard, where being arrived, he was received with all the kindness and friendship imaginable: I attended him there, and have often perceived the gentleman left my master alone with his sister, on purpose to give him opportunity to speak to her, and indeed he made the most of his time, for without mentioning every particular, he prevailed on her in a fond moment to sacrifice her honour to him, on the old promise of making her his wife when he had settled his affairs.

But there was soon a stop put to their happiness, my master would not accept of the gentleman's offer to lodge at his house, so lay at the Inn where our horses were put up, one night after taking leave of the gentleman, the lady and he went privately into the garden to have a little conversation before they parted — One of the servants happening to be there, caught them in a very familiar manner, and went immediately and told his master. Nothing could equal his astonishment at the behaviour of his guest, whom he had treated like a brother; he went directly into the garden, but found he was gone; he then insisted upon her telling him what terms
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she was upon with her lover, the lady was very much terrified at her brother's passion, but at last by his swearing he would find out the truth, frankly owned what had passed between them, and said he was her husband in the sight of heaven, and was sure would make good her promises; upon hearing this, her brother stamped and raved like a madman, told her she was undone, but he would take vengeance on the villain that had betrayed her.

Accordingly he sent my master a challenge to meet him next morning at five o'clock, or else he would post him for a coward, and a violator of innocence.

My master, though a libertine, was a man of courage, and met the gentleman at the appointed time; they both drew their swords and went to it, but after some time fighting, and both being wounded, the gentleman ran his sword up to the hilt thro' my master's body, he fell down with a groan, but never uttered a word, and it is very much doubted whether the lady's brother will live, being desperately hurt.

I rode to Prescot as fast as I could, to give the Steward notice of the affair — How the catastrophe will end I do not know, but I got the Steward to pay my wages and discharge me: I am going to London, where I was born, and I think never to engage again with such a master.

Anna was more shock'd than griev'd at hearing the fatal end of the wretch who had caused all her afflictions, nay, she had one consolation, tho' a sad one, that she was not the only one he
had

had betrayed to misery. She told the young man she was going to London to visit a relation, and without letting him into her circumstances, thanked him for his intelligence, and then stepped into the stage. When Anna had given the coachman a shilling, she thought she had done enough, but she did not consider the rest of the passengers were obliged to wait for her, and as soon as she was seated, she found she should have a disagreeable day of it, there was five in the coach besides herself, and they set upon her at once; an old man was the first that begun, he said he hated to ride in a stage, for he commonly had the luck to meet some impudent varlet to spoil good company.----Very true my dear says his wife, and I suppose this fine hind'rance will make us get into the inn at a pretty time of night; another said she had heard there was highwaymen in that part of the country, and she should be in fear all day, for says she, (looking at Anna,) I think some person look as if they were acquainted with such sort of gentry, the fourth said she had heard of some forward sluts that had been drawn away in the country, and then went up to London and passed for maids, the fifth was a very ordinary girl, who was daughter to the old man and woman, she toss'd up her head and turned up her nose at Anna, and said, she thank'd God she was not handsome, for some people who were reckoned so, thought all the men that looked at them was in love with them, and some people she dare say, had tired all the men in the town they came from, and now was forced to take up with a footman.

Anna was very much nettled at these reflections, but said nothing, and seemed not to take notice they was aimed at her; the coachman to make up for loss of time, whipped his horses up hill and down, and about nine o'clock got to their inn at London.

Anna after a slight supper, desired she might have a bed and room to herself, which was complied with, and she retired to it directly, as she was quite dash'd at seeing every body staring at her, and whispering one to another how handsome she was: she locked herself in her chamber and went to bed with a mind quite full of fears, and a heart full of grief, she tried to ease herself, but her tears were dried up and exhausted. Oh! said she to herself, to what am I reduced, I that was happy a few months ago, am now the most miserable wretch on earth; I am entirely left to myself and have none to pity me; Oh! fatal vanity thou bane to our sex, to make me believe my beauty was able to fix inconstant man, now I suffer for my credulity, but it is not I that suffer alone, my dear parents what will become of them, Oh! my dear father, my dear mother.

Thus she kept tormenting herself, till sleep (to which she had been a stranger sometime) closed her eyes.

Anna was so much fatigued both in mind and body, that she slept till towards morning, and then waked suddenly out of her sleep, from a dream she had, she dreamed she was in the Green Lane behind her father's fields, and that William was pressing her to marry him, she thought he
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knew she was with child, and she promised to have him, when she was brought to bed, upon which he gave her a posy of white flowers, and a gold ring, and b'd her remember him till they met again, she thought they parted, and as she walked towards home, the flowers all withered and dropt from the stalks, and the ring broke in two and fell into a hole in the earth, on which she awaked.

Anna thought at first that she was at home, but recollection soon came with a pain at heart, after she had lain some time, reflecting on her condition, she got up, had some coffee for her breakfast, paid her reckoning, took her bundle and walked out she could not tell where; however, at last she came to an open airy street, near Bloomsbury-square, she saw on a window lodgings to let, Anna knocked at the door, and a genteel likely middle-aged woman shewed her one, it was a pretty neat well-furnished room, and Anna took possession of it immediately; she told the gentlewoman she was just come out of the country, and she seeing the bundle, and Anna looking so innocent made no scruple, when dinner was ready, (Mrs. Nelson, that was the landlady's name) invited Anna to eat, so she agreed to board with her, there was only herself and husband, with two pretty children and a maid servant.

If it was possible for Anna to be happy any where, she might have been so here, Mrs. Nelson, was a very good woman, and behaved with the greatest tenderness, to Anna, and as she was
a mother

a mother herself, and perceived that Anna was in the way to be one, pitied her very much; one day when they were sitting both together, Mrs. Nelson saw the tears trickle down Anna's cheeks, my dear says she, what is the reason you give way to grief so much, it will be of great hurt to you I am afraid, do says she, pray tell me the cause of your sorrow, and if it requires to be kept a secret from the world, you may depend it shall be so, only ease your mind by telling what troubles you, and I will do all in my power to assist you, Anna sat silent some moments to consider, and then said, my dear Mrs Nelson, I will trust you with all, even with my life.

So saying, she told her every thing and begged advice what to do, Mrs. Nelson could not help shedding tears, however, she begged her to compose herself, said she was to be pitied more than blamed, promised to provide a midwife, nurse, and every thing that was necessary, but advised her of all things to write to her parents, and let them know the truth, Anna took her advice, and wrote a letter to her father and mother, told them how she had been betrayed, and the reason she left them, begged their pardon and blessing.

After this she appeared more easy in her mind, but her health was so bad, she could not stir out of her room, Mrs. Nelson sat with her as often as she could.

Poor Anna waited with much impatience for an answer to her letter, but if she had known the fatal news she was to hear, she had better

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not wrote to her parents, or at least not tell where she was, till in better health and spirits, the answer came at last, not from her father or mother, but from her uncle, with the melancholy tidings that her mother died of a fever, occasioned as was supposed by grief for her loss, and that her father had hardly been heard to speak since, but about a week after he had died suddenly in his chair, he said he had received her letter directed to her parents, and that he answered it, as he thought she was not guilty as he imagined, he desired, that when she had got over the affair, that made her leave her home, she would come to him, and every thing should be forgot.

This letter from her uncle, tho' it was kind, yet was filled with such a dreadful account of her dear parents, that on reading it, poor Anna fell into fits, and when she came out of them, into labour, before her time, the child was dead born, and the unhappy creature did not survive above two hours.

Thus at the age of eighteen, one of the finest girls in England finished her life, which, if she had not been fond of flattery, full of her own charms, and so ready to believe the enticing words of false deceitful man, might have shone in a superior station, or if she had married poor William, might have been happy herself, and a blessing to her parents.

Mrs Nelson wrote immediately to Anna's uncle acquainting him of the death of the poor girl, as she called her, and said she should waite his orders about her funeral.

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Mr. Jones, that was her uncle's name, sent an answer by the return of post, it was full of lamentation and grief, but thanked her for all her care and kindness, desiring she would accept of his niece's cloaths, and whatever else she had with her, but to send her corpse down to Prescot, that she might be interred by her parents, in the vault belonging them.

Mrs. Nelson, according to his desire, hired an undertaker of her acquaintance, who put the body in a leaden coffin, and conveyed it in a hearse down to her uncle's.

Mrs. Nelson was a good while before she could overcome the shock, she loved Anna like a sister. What a pity it was, one so young, so beautiful, should thus fall.

Her fatal end should prove an example to all young persons of both sexes, from this, let the young men take warning, not to love with desperation, like poor William, and let the young rakes consider, that tho' they may run a long course in sinful pleasures, yet vengeance will overtake them at the last, like 'Squire F-----. Let fathers take care likewise, not to cross their daughters, when they find them engaged in honourable love, even tho' it is not so much to their advantage, in living grand in the world, nor let any private grudge of their own be the cause of separating too fond hearts, who seem by nature to be formed for each other.

And above all things, let young women, especially, such who are handsome, take care to shun the flattery of the men, for they are naturally false, and prone to change. How

How many parents have been robb'd of all their comfort in their daughters, when they had been at the expence and care of bringing them up, by the artful designs of profess'd rakes, and fortune hunters.

And I would likewise advise those females, who are not endowed with so much beauty, to enrich their minds with sense, and becoming behaviour, and then they need not fear of meeting with a man of good sense, and good nature, to make them happy, had but poor Anna Brown, adhered to these principles, she might have lived to this time, an ornament to society.

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THE ADVENTURE;

Or, An AGREEABLE TURN, which happened to the DAUGHTER of one of the Richest Merchants, at Amsterdam.

THE following entertainment being strongly attested by persons of undoubted veracity, I am thereby the more emboldened to give it my readers.

There happened to be at Amsterdam, a merchant, whose wealth was so considerable, that he might well pass for one of the most rich and powerful

powerful men in that great city. This eminent citizen had no one to inherit what he had, but an only daughter, on whom nature had bestowed a great share of beauty; and wit was not much inferior to her accomplishment, so that she might be reckoned one of the most deserving in the Seven Provinces, had she not so well known the strength of her charms (both with regard to her person and fortune) which served only to sooth her vanity the more, and give her a haughtiness and disdainful pride, very disagreeable in one who might have been every way delightful: But as the abundance of every thing that was desirable, accompanied with her other personal qualifications, inspired her with sentiments that carried her even to presumption, she could not help looking on all mankind as objects unworthy of approaching her.

There were several persons, notwithstanding all her scornful behaviour and disdain, that used their best efforts to render themselves worthy of her good graces, by their constant assiduity and devotion, and by every thing else that might be thought acceptable to her sex; but her mind being so much prepossessed in her own favour, she looked upon their endeavours, only as homages due to merit, without their expecting any thing from her in return; insomuch that according to her own opinion, there was not one in all that metropolis worthy of her esteem, if this wit and other rare qualities were not accompanied with the title of Marquis, and that too of the French nation; not being able to bear
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any thing under that rank, should meet with any tolerable reception from her; adding farther, that her fortune was too great, and her many other endowments too considerable, to stoop to the partnership of any man of traffick and book-keeping.

Her parents were not so ambitious, bore with (however with some difficulty) a humour so arrogant as was that of their daughter. They would often represent to her how wrong her judgment and conduct were founded, in slighting those, who in their own country, might be deemed men of the greatest figures; telling her, that she would be much happier with a good merchant, than with any of the nobility, who they said, were very often puffed up with airy titles and vain glory; despising a woman that has nothing but wealth, and has not an illustrious birth; that the great men consumed their substance without acquiring any; and that it often happens, that whilst they are proclaiming aloud their titles, and quality, they go with hungry bellies, whilst the weary tradesman abound with every good thing, not minding all those false honours, which serve to intoxicate the minds of men, without satisfying their necessities. All these reasons, I say, far from making any impression on this haughty lady, served only the more to fix her in her resolution of marrying no one below a Marquis. In vain did they try if by the persuasions of her acquaintances she might be won to listen to reasons that might inspire her to other thoughts; all that they could
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urge to her, served but the more to render her invincible to their requests, and occasioned her to discard all those suitors who might reasonably have hoped for that alliance.

The frequent repulses which they met with (having offended several of her admirers, who thought themselves no way inferior to her) roused up in them a spirit of revenge; inso-much, that having several of them combined together, they resolved by their joint endeavours to shew this disdainful nymph some pleasant trick, by way of requital; every one of them applied himself in the best manner he could, to find out an expedient, to give her sufficient cause of mortification, by which means they might be revenged on her, for the contempt she had shewn them. At length one of the company very luckily hit on a method, every way as a propos to the occasion, and as bitter, as if it had been the invention of an incensed woman, or else of him who was first privy counsellor in the garden of Eden; and in this they succeeded as well as they could wish.

They applied themselves then to a chimney-sweeper, a native of France, one who was naturally of a good countenance, bold, and of a jovial and enterprising humour, one who desired nothing more than to get money, and to spend his days at ease. They proposed to him, that if he would be advised by them, they would not only held him to one of the greatest portions in marriage in the city, and the possession of one of the most beautiful ladies of Holland, but they

they would furnish him too with money and clothes, in order to gain his point in that enterprise; so that it wholly depended on himself to make his fortune for the remainder of his days, without any risk or trouble, by only complying with two or three things, which they would expect of him.

The cunning blade seeing so favourable an opportunity of advancing himself, offered to be at their disposal, provided they would ingeniously let him know beforehand what the conditions were which they demanded.

They acquainted him then, in a few words, that they would not only give him cloaths as rich as he could desire, and so many of them, that he might almost have change for every day; that they would likewise supply him with as much money as might be needful to appear in all sorts of company; that they would give him three or four footmen, and valet de chambre, together with a coach; that he had nothing to do but personate the quality of a Marquis, and order his servants to give him the suitable title on all occasions; to the end that when he went to see the lady whom they had a mind he should marry, he might the easier make her believe, that he was in reality, what by his expences, his train, and behaviour, he seemed to be; telling him that fair coy one, at the word of Marquis, would insensibly fall into the snare, and of consequence his expectations would be soon answered; and in a word, if the affair was concluded, and did take effect by their endeavours (as they doubted

doubted not of success, they assured him, they would desire no other acknowledgment from him for so great a piece of service done him, but that the next morning after his nuptials, he should repair to his old landlord's, where re-assuming his former dress of chimney-sweeper (well daubed with soot, according to custom, and armed cap-a-pee for that office) he should go through all his rounds, with his usual cry of sweep, &c. and that after having passed several times before his wife's house, he should enter thus accoutred, and declare to her who he was, and the whole foundation of the story how it happened; otherwise he would run a great hazard, if he failed in this last point, not to enjoy his good fortune, or his amours very long, and perhaps see himself perish most miserably, after having gained so glorious a conquest.

The merry fellow though resolute enough in his nature, seemed to be for some time at a stand at this last proposal, fearing on the one side the fury of these young gentlemen, if he should not keep his word with them; and on the other, he thought it was imposing on him a yoke somewhat too heavy, after having procured him so much good as they intended him (in case he should happen to succeed :) Nevertheless, being determined after some moments reflection to do whatever they expected, on their own conditions, they confirmed to him all they had promised him at first; then sent him to a bagnio, and having from a devil made a kind of angel of him, they gave him clothes, footmen and money, accord-

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ing as was requisite to perform the part of a Marquis; to which dignity, in that happy moment he was going to be metamorphosed.—

After which, for several days they instructed him in the grimace he was to take upon him, in which he became so great a proficient, that it might be thought our sham-nobleman was capable of deceiving the most cunning in that point.

All these things being adjusted, they bid him go to the fair one's house and pretend he wanted to buy some goods, and to order his servant to call him at all times Monsieur le Marquis, while he should be ogling the lady, and endeavouring to get into conversation with her on something that was gallant; after which, at his going away, that he should take leave with an air of concern, to testify the extreme pain that his heart felt, at the separation from her, that had so much charmed him; and he should at least leave designed one of his gloves behind him in the shop, to give the beautiful shopkeeper an opportunity of sending it after him, by which means he should then be obliged to return her a second visit, by way of thanks for her civility.

This lesson given to our apt scholar, he instantly set forth to act the great personage he had undertaken, and acquitted himself so well, that the parents, and the daughter herself, judged him to be one of the premier Marquisses of France. He performed the courtier so well, both as the complaisant and the passionate part, that they immediately thought him in love; and his

his actions were so just, that they were sufficient to persuade the whole family from the first visit, that his designs were to marry the young lady we are speaking of. It was then an universal joy diffus'd itself over the faces of those that were any way interested in so great a concern; and it was easily to be perceived by the caresses shewed to a new comer, that they were overjoyed with the thoughts of engaging themselves more and more in his inclinations.

This assiduity of theirs being perceived by our supposed Marquis, it gave him occasion to continue with vigour his first attempt, and to speak the truth, no one could perform the part which he had taken upon him better. And now seeing it was time to close the first act of the farce, he took leave, after the most adroit manner imaginable, dropping as it were accidentally, one of his gloves, which none of his lackeys durst observe (according to the orders given them before) and with this prelude to what was to succeed he finished his first visit.

The lady (whose mind was so elevated with an uncommon joy, as not knowing where or how to bestow herself, starting up suddenly from her seat to give her mother a full and faithful account of what had passed between the Marquis and her) spied the glove lying on the floor; she takes it up not doubting in the least but that it belonged to her lover, because of the richness of the gold fringe about it; and what confirmed her the more in this belief, was, that she had observed him to have such gloves. She therefore made this an agreeable

agreeable point of honour to send him back, what he had forgotten, which gave opportunity to the Marquis of coming there again, to return her suitable thanks for the favour, and of consequence, was a means of establishing a more strict friendship between them.

As soon then as he thought it a proper hour the next day, he paid his idol a second visit at which time he complimented her in the most gallant terms in the world, and declared himself so openly, that she could not help being inclined to give credit to his pretentions, as well as admittance to his love.

I shall not presume to give a recital of each particular occurrence which past, during so pleasant an overture, nor of the compliments which were exchanged between the parties concerned; only it is to be observed, that after the departure of the supposed Marquis, the transported fair full of glory, ran directly to give a farther declaration to her father and mother of this important treaty, and solicited them, not only for their consent, but likewise begged that they would press it to a conclusion with all speed.

Her parents whose eyes began now to be dazzled with the lustre of this person and figure, found themselves so well pleased with the promising happiness they should find in this new match, that they made no difficulty to consent to the desires of their daughter: Nevertheless, as they were willing to search a little further into the merits of the cause, they resolved, before they

they would make any great progress in any engagement of that weight, to make some necessary enquiries concerning the birth, and wealth of this courtier; so that being informed what his name was, they wrote to Paris, to know the truth of each circumstance, while they soothed the pretended man of quality, with kind words, amusing him after that manner till they could come to a thorough light into the whole affair.

The young sparks, (who had thus set this comedy on foot, not doubting, but that the foresight of her friends would not be wanting in their utmost precautions) did not fail on the other hand, to render them ineffectual; so that they took particular care to intercept the letters which were sent, and counterfeited the stile and writing of their correspondent, that they returned them several answers, all of which favored their design, by coming safely to hand, without giving any suspicion of the falsity contained in them; and finding other advantages, far beyond what they expected, her parents were the first that were willing to bring the grand concern to a speedy consummation.

Articles at length being drawn up, and all things adjusted, the solemnity of a wedding soon followed, which our Marquis kept with all the magnificence of joy, suitable to such a turn of fortune.

The next difficulty was, (as the following day drew nigh) for our bridegroom to perform the remaining part of his promise, to those who had assisted him to so much riches, as he was now in possession

possession of. You may imagine, it was with a great deal of difficulty, that he found himself obliged to equip himself once more in his sable weeds; nevertheless, the fear of losing his life, spurred on his resolution to finish his last scene; for as much as he thought within himself, that his marriage being in all circumstances compleated, it could not be broke again; and for the rest fearing nothing from his new allies, he soon determined to put the finishing stroke to his first contract, in the execution of which he was very punctual.

If ever people appeared surpris'd and astonish'd, it was now to be seen in the face and behaviour of the bride, and her parents. The grief to see them so bubbled, and the shame which they represented to themselves, would ensue on their taking a Chimney-sweeper to be so near a relation to them, instead of a Marquis did almost throw them into despair; however, as it was an evil without remedy there was nothing to be done, but by making a virtue of necessity, and by hearing with patience, the railleries and banter, as well of their neighbours and acquaintances, of all the former suitors, who were not wanting in their endeavours, to make them the more sensible of their disgrace.

Lampoons and songs flew about, and nothing was spared by her former neglected lovers, to shew their scorn and resentment in the most public manner they could devise; insomuch, that not being able to endure the many floutings and scoffs with which they were daily tormented, the

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parents of our new married couple, resolved to sell all they were possessed of, to the end, that with their money, they might purchase a considerable estate, of great income, in some other province, where they might pass their days in peace and tranquility, far from the insults which they were obliged to bear with almost every moment, at Amsterdam. This resolution they accordingly put in practice; and they have ever since lived in a pleasant retirement, remote enough from any of their enemies, who might attempt to disturb their quiet; and free from any malicious persons to reflect on their past conduct.

Time, which makes all afflictions become more easy and familiar to us, wrought so wonderful a change on the disappointed lady, that at present she thinks herself as blest as a Queen, in the possession of her ennobled Chimney-sweeper, who has found out the secret of living in such harmony with his wife, and his new kindred, that they prefer him before all the Marquisses in the Universe; and they all think themselves sufficiently happy in their lot, and live together in a sedate life, hardly to be equalized.





